

Minford Local Schools

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June 9, 2008

FCC CC Dockets: No. 02-6 and No. 96-45

Subject: Appeal of USAC Decision and Request for Deadline Waiver

Dear Sir or Madam:

I regret to have to be sending this letter, but due to a personal mistake, my 471 application number: 637392 was submitted two business days late this past February. On the next page you will find my appeal letter that was sent to USAC. They quickly rejected the appeal, because the application was late and did not take into consideration my circumstances. I ask that you please read the next page in full and please take into consideration a few specific details:

We are a school district that has partnered with USAC and the FCC for over ten years and the ERate program has become a vital help to us. We have never once missed a deadline or broken any of the rules regarding filing. It was a personal mistake of mine this year for missing the deadline. It was not intentional, I simply got the dates mixed up and did not realize it until it was too late. I was going through some major issues in my personal and family life at the time and had missed a number of days of work around that time. I am begging for forgiveness and for a second chance for this application to be considered.

Our school district is currently in Fiscal Caution and every dollar is important to us right now. It will be a major setback to us if we are not able to receive the ERate funding assistance. I would hate for the district to be punished for a personal mistake. I have been humbled by this and have made sure that it will not happen again. Before, I was the only one who dealt with this, but I have now spread the responsibilities out to make sure that multiple people are aware of the deadline dates. I have also made sure that all electronic calendars are up to date with the deadlines and I will be reminded from now on.

Please note that this application is for a Priority One service and I hope that it will be given the opportunity to be funded. Again, my apologies for my mistake and I am asking sincerely for a second chance for this to be considered for funding. I would like to request a deadline waiver as I was just two business days late with the application. Please read the letter on the next page that was originally sent to USAC. It has more details on the situation and reference numbers.

Sincerely,

Ryan Stockham
Technology Supervisor
Minford Local Schools

June 9, 2008

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USAC – Schools and Libraries

Subject: Appeal – “Funding Year 2008 Form 471 Postmarked Outside of Window Letter,”

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is an appeal in regards to 471 application number 637392. My name is Ryan Stockham and I am the Technology Supervisor for the Minford Local School District (BEN: 130036). I am sorry to have to be doing this, but by my own mistake, I submitted our 471 application 2 business days late this year. The service provider associated with this application was Alltel Communications.

Our school district has been using the services of USAC for over ten years now, and has become dependent on the discounts that we get through them. I personally made a mistake this year for the first time, ever with regards to ERate filing. We have always been very prompt with our applications and have never had any issues. Unfortunately, I had been dealing with a number of personal issues at the time including illnesses in the family as well as personal illness and had not been in a normal state of mind. I normally am reminded of the filing dates by attending regional meetings, etc. but I hadn't been able to attend for a few months at that time. I don't recall getting any information from USAC via email directly addressing the deadline, but I'm certainly not trying to blame them.

Up to this point, I was the only person that did any dealings with USAC in our district, but because of this incident, I will be sharing some of the responsibility so there will be at least two people aware of deadlines in cases like this where one person may be out of the district for a while. Also, I have clearly marked my electronic calendars ahead of time to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Again, I apologize for this and hope that USAC will be willing to forgive our district for my personal mistake and allow us to be funded in the pool with the rest of the districts. We were only two business days late and have had a perfect record in the past ten years. Also, this is for the tier 1 telecommunication services which I hope will take a higher priority then some of the other services offered. Our district greatly depends on this help and I would hate to be the one that kept them from receiving it.

Sincerely,

Ryan Stockham
Technology Supervisor
Minford Local Schools